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Title: Problems being faced by Indian workers in gulf countries.

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (ADOOR): Sir, I would like to raise an important matter concerning the problems of Indian workers in Gulf countries.

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*Not recorded

Lakhs of Indians are working in the Gulf countries. The majority of them belongs to Kerala. Their contributions to the developmental work in India is very significant. But their problems are seldom attended to by the Government. Their problems start from the very stage of recruitment. Nowadays, the Government of India has actually no control over these recruiting agencies. A good number of

workers are, therefore, subjected to the cheating and exploitation of these agencies. The unskilled workers especially the lady workers are the most affected ones. They are not getting the jobs specified in the VISA. Newspaper reports show that some of them happened to reach even in prostitution centres. Harassment, both mental and physical of the sponsors, is another area of difficulties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Surendran, please conclude.

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN : I am just concluding, Sir. It is a very serious matter.

I would, therefore, submit that the Union Government may take urgent steps to provide to the workers in the Gulf countries adequate help such as: i) proper control over recruiting agencies in India and abroad; ii) fair air ticket charges; iii) avoid complications in getting emigration clearance; iv) job security and salary protection; v) action to transport mortal remains without undue delay; vi) utilize the fund collected towards immigration fees for the welfare of the workers; and vii) avoid cumbersome procedure of customs clearance at airports.